

NSA review
completed

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State Dept., NAVY reviews
completed.

CHRONOLOGY OF ACTION REGARDING THE PUEBLO
(In Eastern Standard Time - "E")

January 10

Pueblo departs Sasebo under orders to maintain radio silence unless she was under surveillance.

January 22

2050E Pueblo establishes radio communications, transmits two Situation Reports and other data. Describes Pueblo activities since arriving on station on 12 January including; sighting of NK patrol craft on January 20, close contact with fishing trawlers on January 21 about 2225E, 18 other contacts subsequently, and gives several position reports (all in international waters). These two routine Situation Reports were received as follows:

Situation Report No. 1:

COMNAVFORJAPAN	- 2203E
CINCPAC	- 0302E (January 23)
CINCPACFLT	- 0303E (January 23)
Pentagon (NMCC)	- 0550E (January 23)

Situation Report No. 2:

COMNAVFORJAPAN	- 2210E
CINCPAC	- 0315E (January 23)
CINCPACFLT	- 1047E (January 23)
Pentagon	- 1455E (January 23)

2252E Pueblo reports encounter at 2200E with North Korean patrol craft which requested nationality. Pueblo raised ensign. NK craft signaled: "Heave to or I will open fire on you." Pueblo responded "I am in international waters." Pueblo reports intention to remain in area, if possible; otherwise to withdraw to northeast. This message was relayed CRITIC by the receiving station in Japan.

USAF review(s)
completed.

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January 22 (cont'd)

Information received:

COMNAVFORJAPAN	- 2313E
CINCUNC Headquarters	- 2340E
Pentagon (NMCC)	- 2346E
CINCPAC	- 0010E (January 23)

2315E Pueblo reports surrounded by NK patrol craft, receiving signal: "Follow my wake, have pilot aboard." Two MIGs sighted circling overhead. One patrol craft preparing boarding party. This message was also relayed CRITIC by the receiving station in Japan.

COMNAVFORJAPAN	- 2322E
CINCUNC	- 2340E
Pentagon (NMCC)	- 2346E
CINCPACFLT	- 0041E (January 23)
CINCPAC	- 0030E (January 23)

2326E Pueblo reports NK craft plans to open fire.

Information received:

COMNAVFORJAPAN	- 2329E
Pentagon (NMCC)	- 2346E
CINCPAC	- 2355E

2328E Pueblo reports being boarded.

Information received:

COMNAVFORJAPAN	- 2346E
Pentagon (NMCC)	- 0041E (January 23)
CINCPAC	- 0049E (January 23)

SECRET

January 22 (cont'd)

2335E COMNAVFORJAPAN requests assistance from 5th Air Force.

2345E Pueblo reports being escorted into probably Wonsan.
Message relayed from Japan, retransmitted by DIRNSA.

Information received:

COMNAVFORJAPAN	- 2352E
CINCPAC	- 0103E (January 23)
Pentagon	- 0101E (January 23)

2346E Messages sent by Pueblo at 2252E, 2315E, and 2326E, all of which were relayed CRITIC from Japan, arrive in NMCC and other watch offices in Washington. NMCC notifies other agencies and Chairman, JCS, Deputy Secretary Defense. Other agencies notify senior officials including Bundy, Hughes, and Read at State, Rostow at White House.

January 23

0000E Pueblo reports being requested to follow into Wonsan. Had not used any weapons, is destroying as much equipment and documents as possible, 3 men wounded and one has leg blown off.

Information received:

COMNAVFORJAPAN	- 0003E
CINCPAC	- 0052E
Pentagon	- 0053E

0023E Secretary McNamara notified. Consults Secretary Rusk.

0025E Pueblo reports that almost everything had been destroyed but that destruction incomplete, some things will be compromised.

SECRET

January 23 (cont'd)

This message was received by DIRNSA in Washington and re-transmitted by DIRNSA at 0236E

Information received:

COMNAVFORJAPAN	- 0032E
Pentagon	- 0302E
CINCPAC	- 0549E

0032E Pueblo reports going off air: destroying gear. (Final message.)

Message relayed by Japan - 0034E

Information received:

COMNAVFORJAPAN	- 0034E
CINCPAC	- 0110E
Pentagon	- 0119E

0046E Commander 5th Air Force calls CINCPACAF and proposes alerting 18th Tactical Fighter Wing, Okinawa.

0048E Commander 5th Air Force orders deployment of aircraft from Okinawa to Osan, SK.

0130E Rostow calls NMCC, then CINCPAC.

0211E Aircraft launched from Okinawa but Commander 5th AF, together with CINCPACAF, concludes that properly configured aircraft could not reach Pueblo before darkness and that no effective action is possible to aid Pueblo.

0215E McNamara, Bundy, Goulding confer on status of Pueblo and press release.

0225E President notified.

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